

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:

2 Applying a grip to a handle of a personal care product, the grip comprising a core and a  
3 sheath surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the core is an elastomeric material.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides,  
3 polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-  
4 butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-  
5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,  
6 polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin  
7 elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 50 Shore A.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 25 Shore A.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 10 Shore A.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath is an elastomeric material.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group  
2 consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides,  
3 polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-  
4 butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-  
5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,

polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.4 mm to 4.0 mm thick.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 2.0 mm thick.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm thick.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 25 Shore A to 80 Shore A.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 30 Shore A to 60 Shore A.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 40 Shore A to 55 Shore A.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the personal care product is selected from the group consisting of toothbrushes and razors.

18. A method of manufacturing a toothbrush comprising:

- (a) forming a toothbrush handle; and
- (b) sandwich molding onto the handle a grip comprising a core and a sheath surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than that of the core.

19. A method of manufacturing a razor comprising:

- (c) forming a razor handle; and
- (d) sandwich molding onto the handle a grip comprising a core and a sheath surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than that of the core.

20. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:

applying to a handle of a personal care product a grip comprising a core and a sheath surrounding the core.

21. A personal care product comprising:

(e) a handle; and

(f) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

22. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core is a elastomeric material.

23. The personal care product of claim 22 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

24. The personal care product of claim 23 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

25. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 50 Shore A.

26. The personal care product of claim 25 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 25 Shore A.

27. The personal care product of claim 26 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 10 Shore A.

28. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath is an elastomeric material.

29. The personal care product of claim 28 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

30. The personal care product of claim 29 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers, polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

31. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.4 mm to 4.0 mm thick.

32. The personal care product of claim 31 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 2.0 mm thick.

33. The personal care product of claim 32 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm thick.

34. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 25 Shore A to 80 Shore A.

35. The personal care product of claim 34 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 30 Shore A to 60 Shore A.

36. The personal care product of claim 35 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 40 Shore A to 55 Shore A.

37. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a toothbrush handle.

38. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a razor handle.

1 39. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a hairbrush handle.

1 40. A toothbrush comprising:

2 (a) a toothbrush handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath  
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 41. A razor comprising:

2 (a) a razor handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath  
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 42. A toothbrush comprising:

2 (a) a handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath  
4 surrounding the core.

1 43. A razor comprising:

2 (a) a razor handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath  
4 surrounding the core.

1 44. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:

2 (a) applying to a handle of personal care product a grip comprising a first layer, a  
3 second outer layer surrounding the first layer; and

4 (b) forming a hollow core within the first layer by injecting a gas into the middle  
5 of the first layer.

1 45. A personal care product comprising:

2 (a) a handle, and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a first layer, a second outer  
4 layer surrounding the first layer, and a hollow core within the first layer.

1 46. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core further comprises a foaming  
2 agent.

1 47. A handheld household appliance comprising:

2 (a) a handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath  
4 surrounding the core.

1 48. The handheld household appliance of claim 47 wherein the sheath has a hardness greater  
2 than the core.